



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

APR 7 1970

Dear Senator Mansfield:


This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of March 10, 1970, in which you discussed the Anaconda Company's request for an easement on some State lands in conjunction with their proposed mining development in the Huddleston District near Lincoln, Montana. In this letter you enclosed correspondence from Mr. Ted Schwinden, Commissioner of State Lands and Investments and Mr. Donald Aldrich, Executive Secretary of the Montana Wildlife Federation.

In your letter you stated that State officials are seeking outside assistance in developing the necessary control measures and seeking the necessary assurances from the Anaconda officials that the mining development will in no way adversely affect the environment. You ask if the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration has the authority to enter into situations of this kind. The answer to your question is "yes"; we do have such authority. Section 5(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act states that the Secretary may, upon request of any State water pollution control agency, or interstate agency, conduct investigations and research and make surveys concerning any specific problem of water pollution confronting any State, interstate agency, community, municipality, or industrial plant, with a view of recommending a solution of such problem. We have engaged in a similar function for the State of Colorado in a review of plans and specifications submitted by Parsons and Whittemore, Inc., for the proposed location of a pulp and paper mill on the Rio Grande River. We are engaged in a similar study presently for the State of South Carolina in relation to the proposed construction of a plant by Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik in Beaufort County, South Carolina.

Please be assured that the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration stands ready to assist the State in a review and study of this problem. I suggest that the Montana Water Pollution Council send a request for such assistance either to me, or to our Director of the Northwest Region, Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, 501 Pittock Block, Portland, Oregon 97205, prior to the time that such assistance is desired. As soon as such a request is received, this Administration will give it expeditious attention.

Thank you for your letter and for your support of the water pollution control program.

Sincerely yours,


David D. Dominick
Commissioner

Honorable Mike Mansfield
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510